

AVENGERS • X-MEN

#3

MARVEL



# REVO LUTIONS AXIS REVOLUTIONS

## PREVIOUSLY...

POSSESSING THE BRAIN OF DECEASED X-MEN FOUNDER PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER—AND THE IMMENSE PSYCHIC POWERS THAT COME WITH IT—THE VILLAINOUS RED SKULL SOUGHT TO RID THE EARTH OF MUTANTKIND. ASCENDING INTO THE TERRIFYING FORM OF RED ONSLAUGHT, HE INITIATED HIS WAR, BROADCASTING HATE ACROSS THE PLANET. DETERMINED TO STOP HIM, A SMALL ARMY OF AVENGERS AND X-MEN TOOK THE FIGHT TO RED ONSLAUGHT ON THE ABANDONED ISLAND OF GENOSHA...ALONGSIDE THE WORLD'S FIERCEST VILLAINS. OUTMATCHED, THE HEROES AND VILLAINS MADE A LAST DITCH EFFORT TO OVERCOME THEIR FOE: THEY CAST A MAGICAL SPELL IN THE HOPE OF SUBDUING THE SKULL AND BRINGING XAVIER'S CONSCIOUSNESS TO THE FORE. BUT THE SPELL HAD UNFORESEEN CONSEQUENCES-- THE MORALITY OF EVERY HERO AND VILLAIN PRESENT WAS ALSO INVERTED.



### "NICE SHOT"

RAY FAWKES  
writer

PEPÉ LARRAZ & RODRIGO ZAYAS  
artists

RACHELLE ROSENBERG  
colorist

### "CASTLES IN THE SAND"

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JOE QUESADA  
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ALAN FINE  
executive producer

NEW YORK CITY.

...ARMED ROBBERY  
RESPONSE--YESSIR,  
WE'VE GOT EYES ON  
THE INSIDE!

THE TARGET'S  
WEARING A *COSTUME*,  
LOOKS LIKE ONE OF  
THE X-MEN. SHE'S--

SIR, THE  
CEO OF THE  
BANK IS *INSIDE*  
ON A DROP-  
IN VISIT--



ORDERS  
ARE TO DROP  
THE PERP, RICKY-  
TICK!

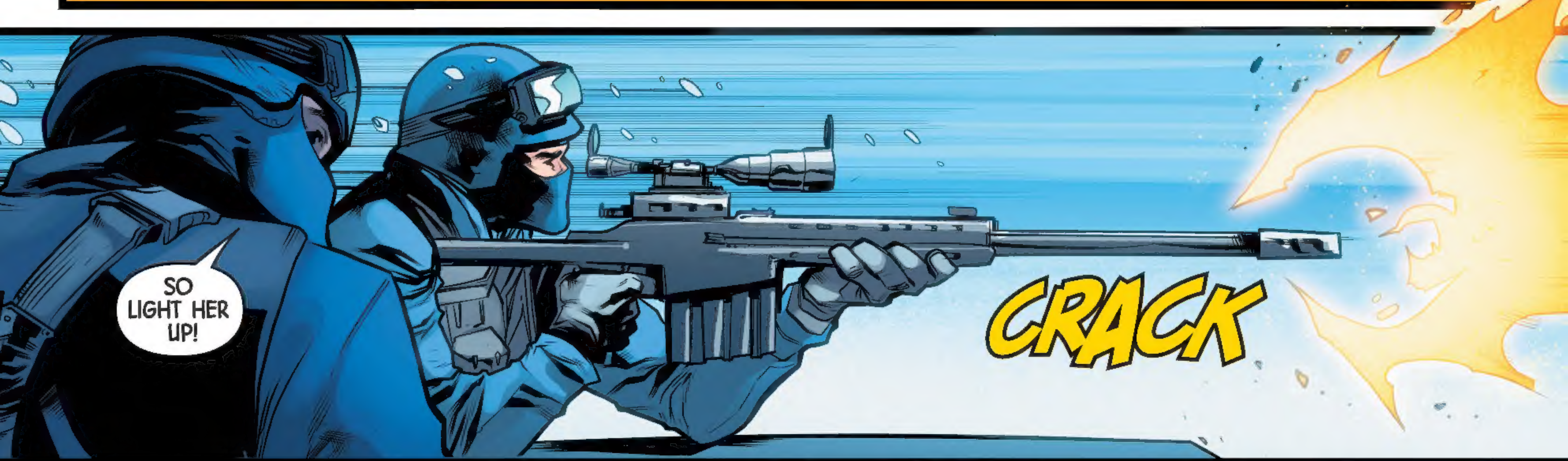
SHE'S ALONE,  
SHE'S ON CAMERA--  
EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS  
SAYS ARMED *NUTJOB*,  
AND WE GOT A  
VIP ON SITE!

I  
GOT HER  
SQUARE IN  
MY SIGHTS.  
*EASY.*



SO  
LIGHT  
HER  
UP!

**CRACK**



UH-  
OH.

TELL ME  
YOU DIDN'T  
*MISS!*

NO...NO,  
I *HIT* HER...  
I...



"...I THINK  
WE'RE GONNA  
NEED A DIFFERENT  
KIND OF GUN!"

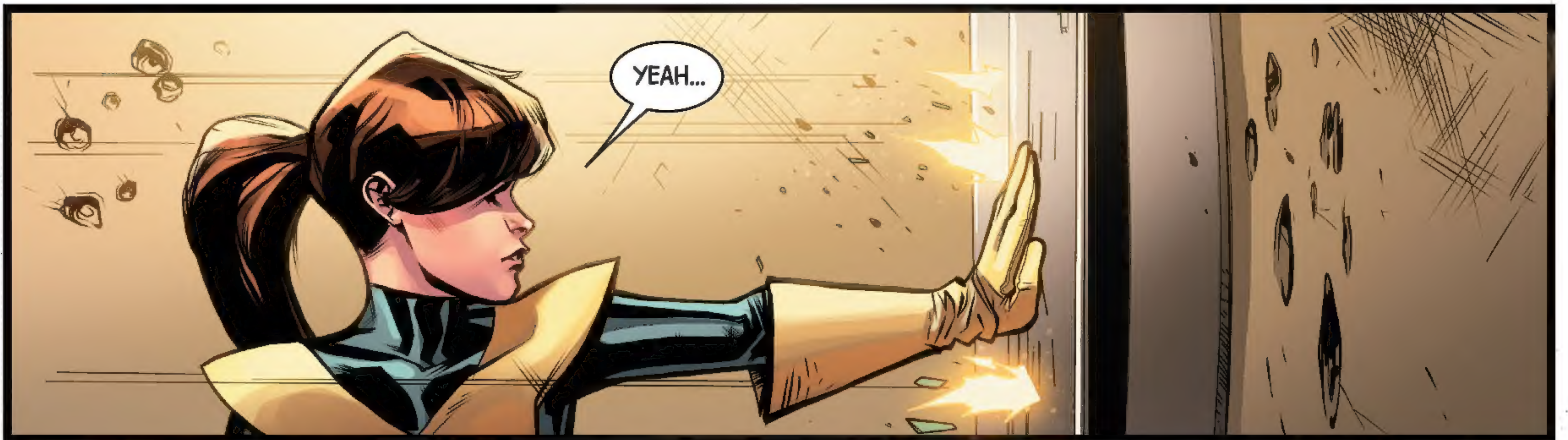
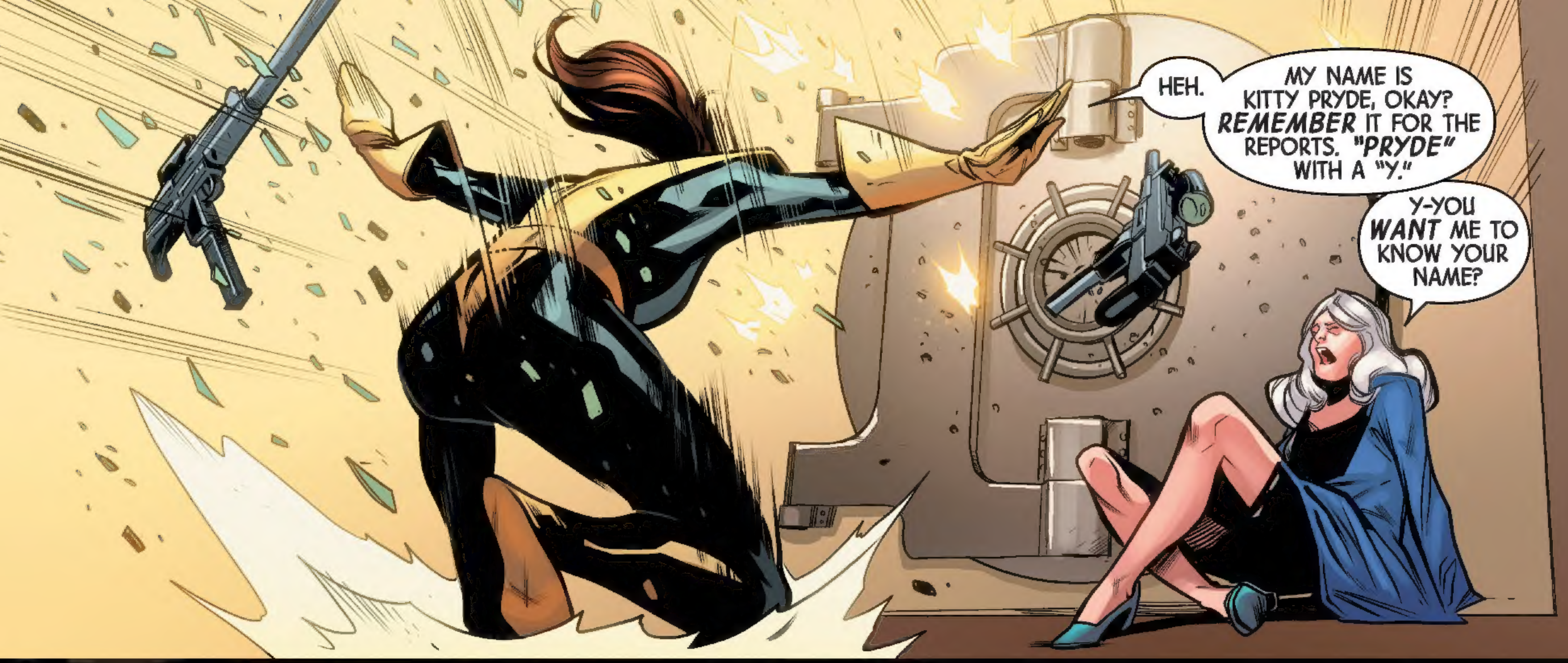
HAHAHAHA!

NICE  
SHOT!

BLAM  
BLAM

BLAM  
BLAM



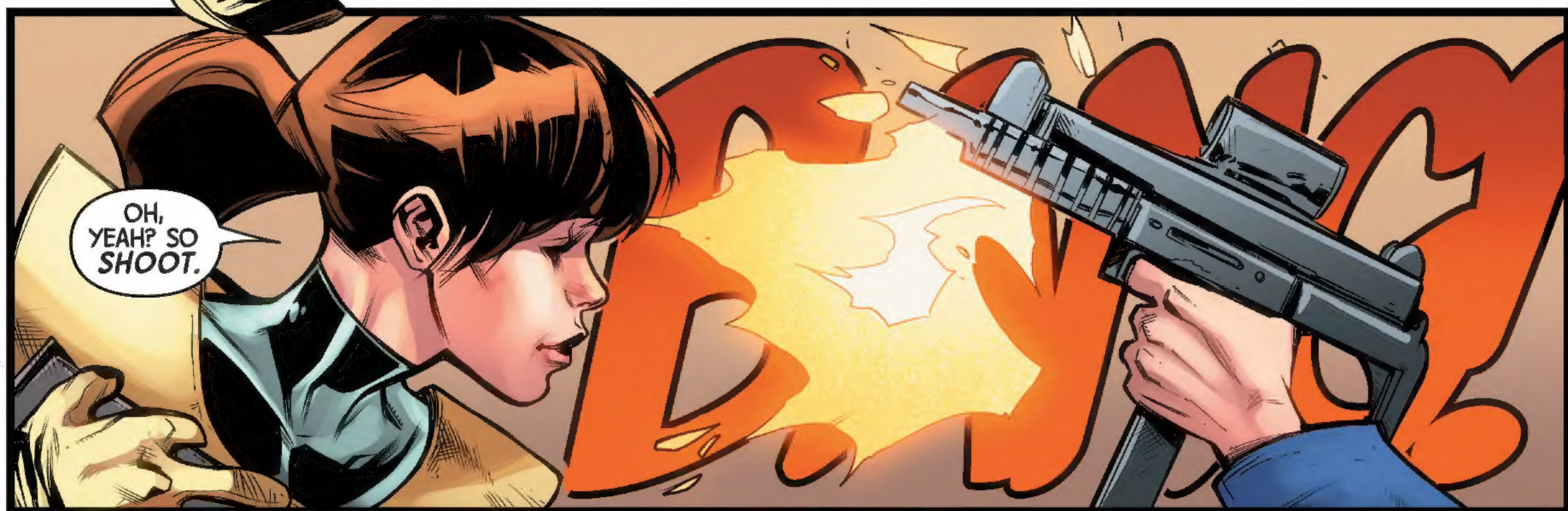


**BRAKKA  
BRAKKA  
BRAKKA  
BRAKKA**

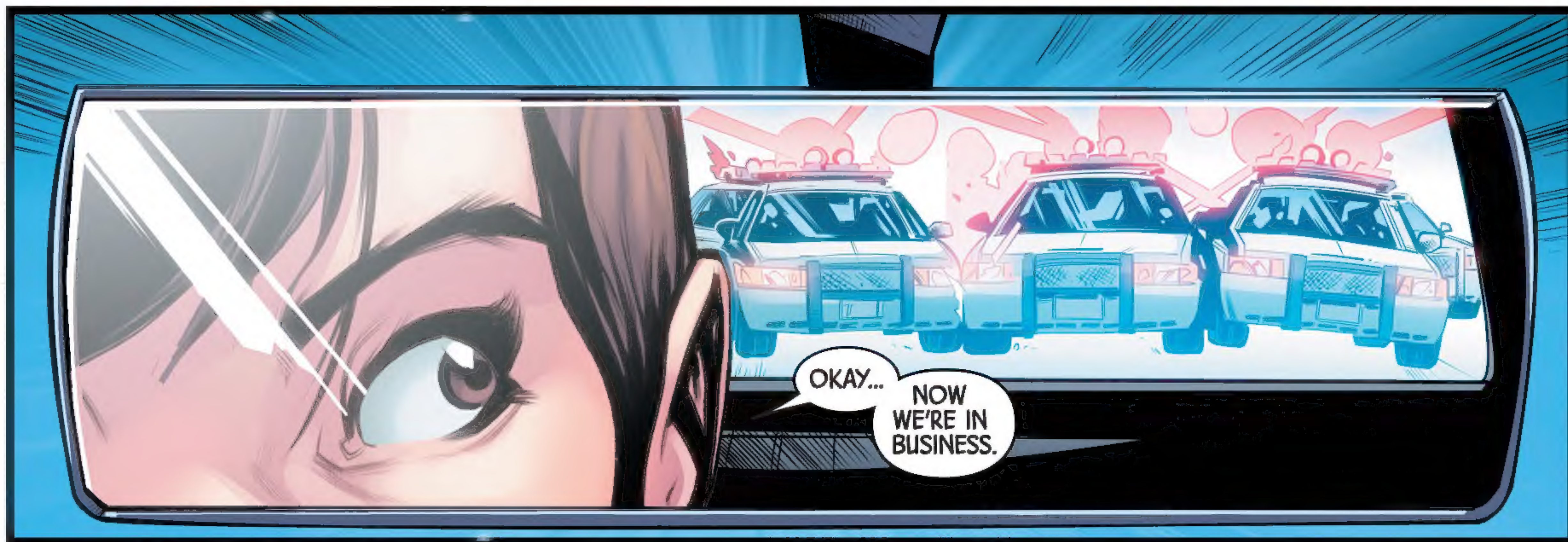
I'LL  
JUST PUT  
THIS *HERE*, IF  
YOU DON'T  
MIND...

...AND  
LET IT  
GO.













**NOW.**

ALL THINGS  
CONSIDERED, I  
AIN'T REALLY  
A *BAD GUY*.

SURE, I'VE BEEN  
KNOWN TO GET  
CAUGHT UP IN SOME  
STICKY SITUATIONS  
OVER THE YEARS...

GO GO  
GO!

...AND THE  
MORE-THAN-  
OCCASIONAL  
TUSSLE WITH  
THAT SPIDER  
DWEBB...

WE'RE  
HERE!  
RYKER'S  
ISLAND!

I'LL BE  
BACK AT THE  
PRISON ROOFTOP IN  
THIRTY! NOW HURRY  
UP AND GET OUT,  
YA LUMMOX!

...BUT I'VE  
ALWAYS  
HAD MY  
REASONS.

YOU KNOW ME,  
FLINT MARKO.  
I'M A MAN OF  
MY WORD.

BUT AS THEY SAY,  
SOMETIMES YOU  
JUST GOTTA BREAK  
A FEW EGGS TO  
MAKE BREAKFAST...

THEN.

...AND IT'S A LONG TIME  
SINCE I BEEN TO THE  
GROCERY. IT'S EASY  
TO GET DISTRACTED.

SEEMS LIKE  
YOU CLOSE  
YOUR EYES...

...AND  
EVERYTHING  
CHANGES.

...WHEN  
ABSORBING MAN  
APPEARED, STOPPING  
THE ROBBERS DEAD  
IN THEIR TRACKS.



AS A TERRIBLE  
WAVE OF VIOLENCE  
CONTINUES TO WASH OVER  
MANHATTAN, WE MUST ASK...  
WHO'S NEXT? WHO WILL RISE  
UP AS HERO IN OUR  
TIME OF NEED?

SOME OF  
THE BOYS ARE  
DOING THE HERO  
THING, HUH? Y'KNOW,  
MAYBE I COULD MAKE  
THIS WORK FOR ME,  
TOO. GIVES ME  
AN IDEA...



THE HELL...?  
CREEP?

NORMALLY  
A REVILED VILLAIN,  
ABSORBING MAN  
ACTED AS A HERO...  
A GROWING TREND  
AMONGST SOME  
OF THE CITY'S  
NOTORIOUS  
COSTUMED  
CRIMINALS.

BENNY?  
S'FLINT.  
I'M  
BACK IN THE  
GAME.



FINDING YOUR WAY BACK INTO CRIME AIN'T NEVER TOO HARD.

HERE WE GO! TIME TO BREAK INTO THE SLAMMER FOR A CHANGE!

BACK UP, YA'LL! GONNA BE SOME FIREWORKS!



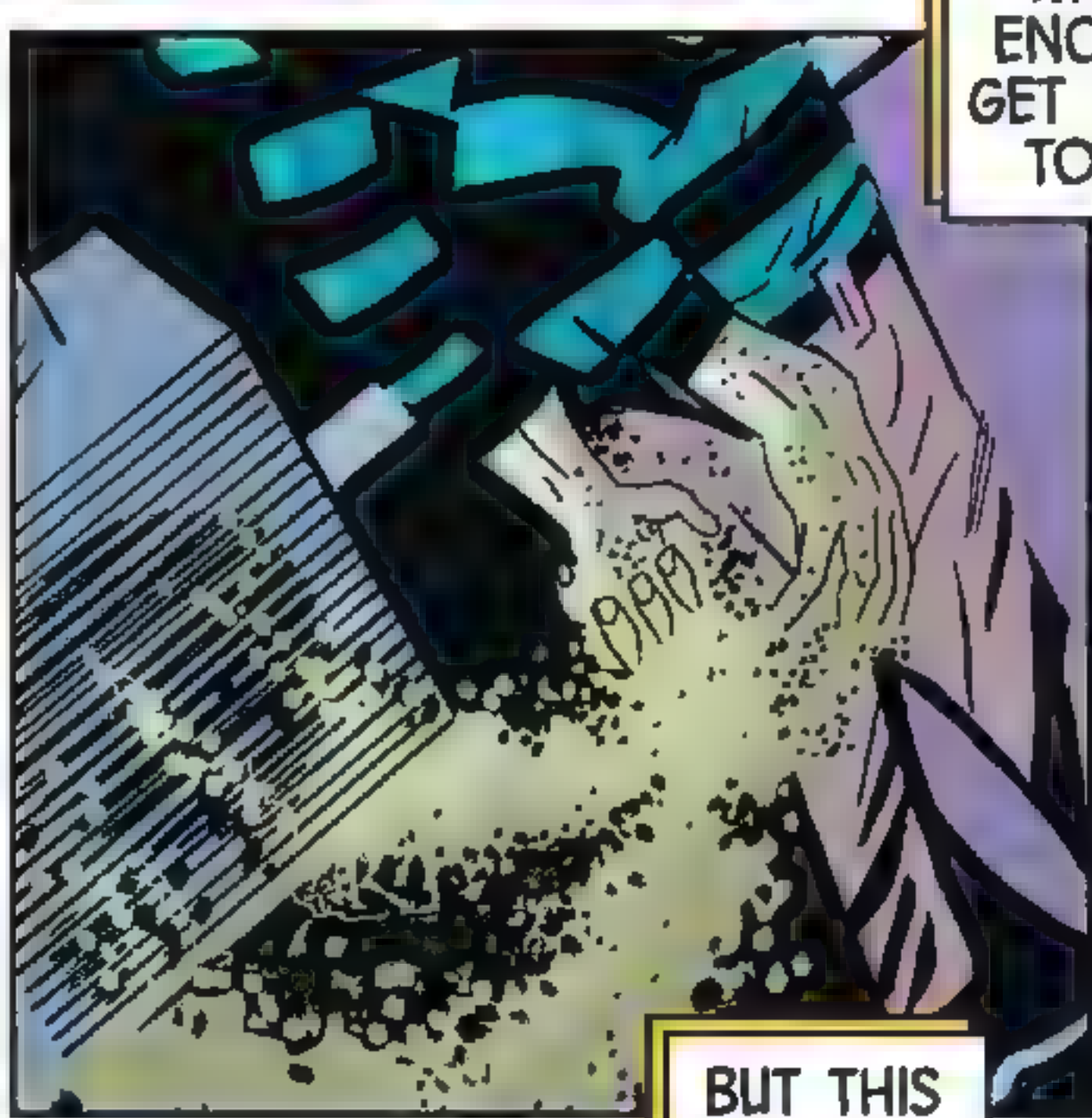
IN THIS BIZ, THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER JOB... ANOTHER SCORE.

IT'S RISIN' ABOVE IT ALL THAT'S THE HARD PART.

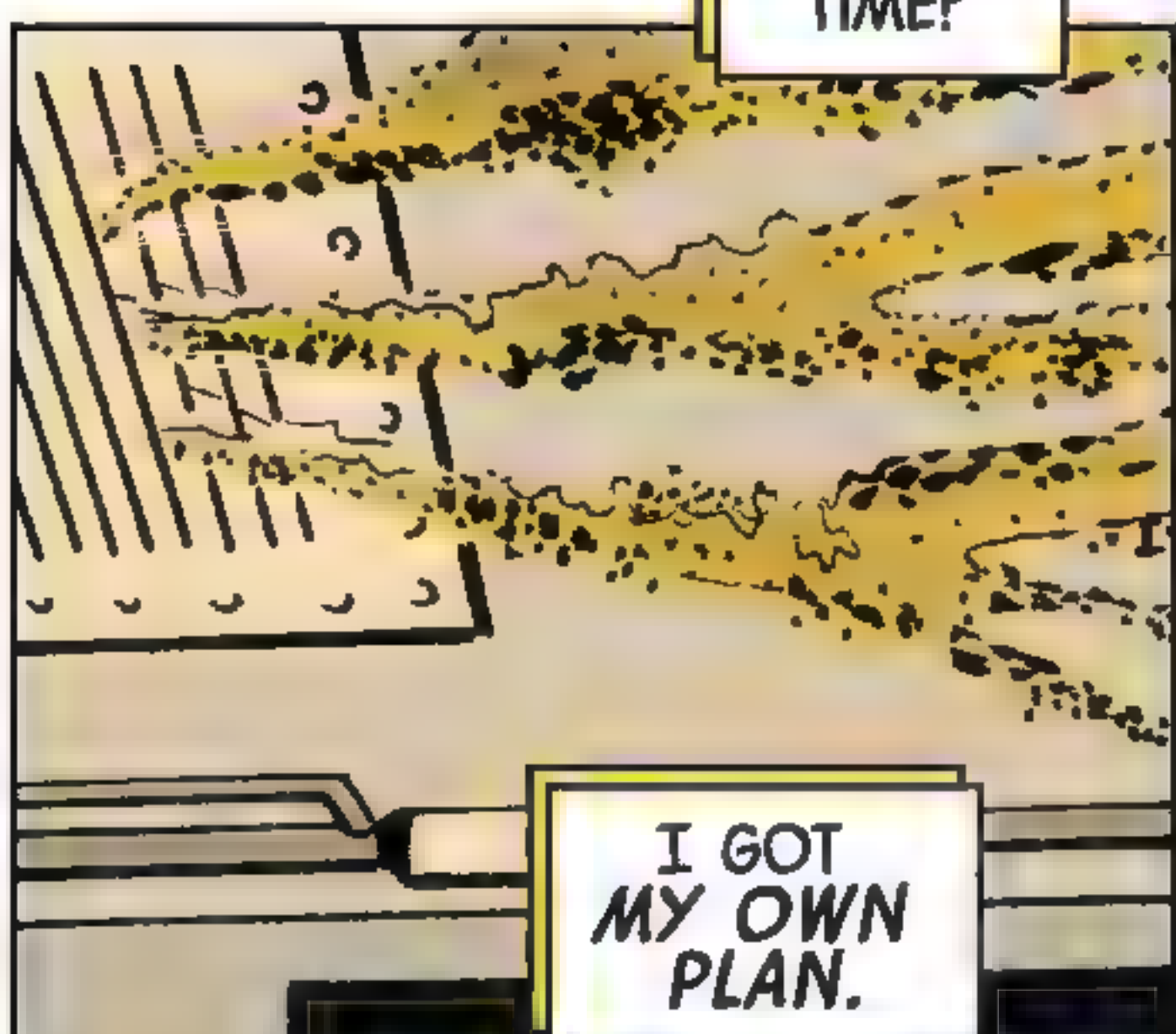
NOW.

ONE OF MY OLD CREWS...BUNCHA NO-GOOD CROOKS WHO WOULD MURDER THEIR OWN GRANNIES FOR A NICKEL.

WAS EASY ENOUGH TO GET 'EM BACK TOGETHER.



BUT THIS TIME?



I GOT MY OWN PLAN.



...WHAT?



I'M GONNA TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT.



DOESN'T TAKE  
LONG FOR THINGS  
TO GO CRAZY.

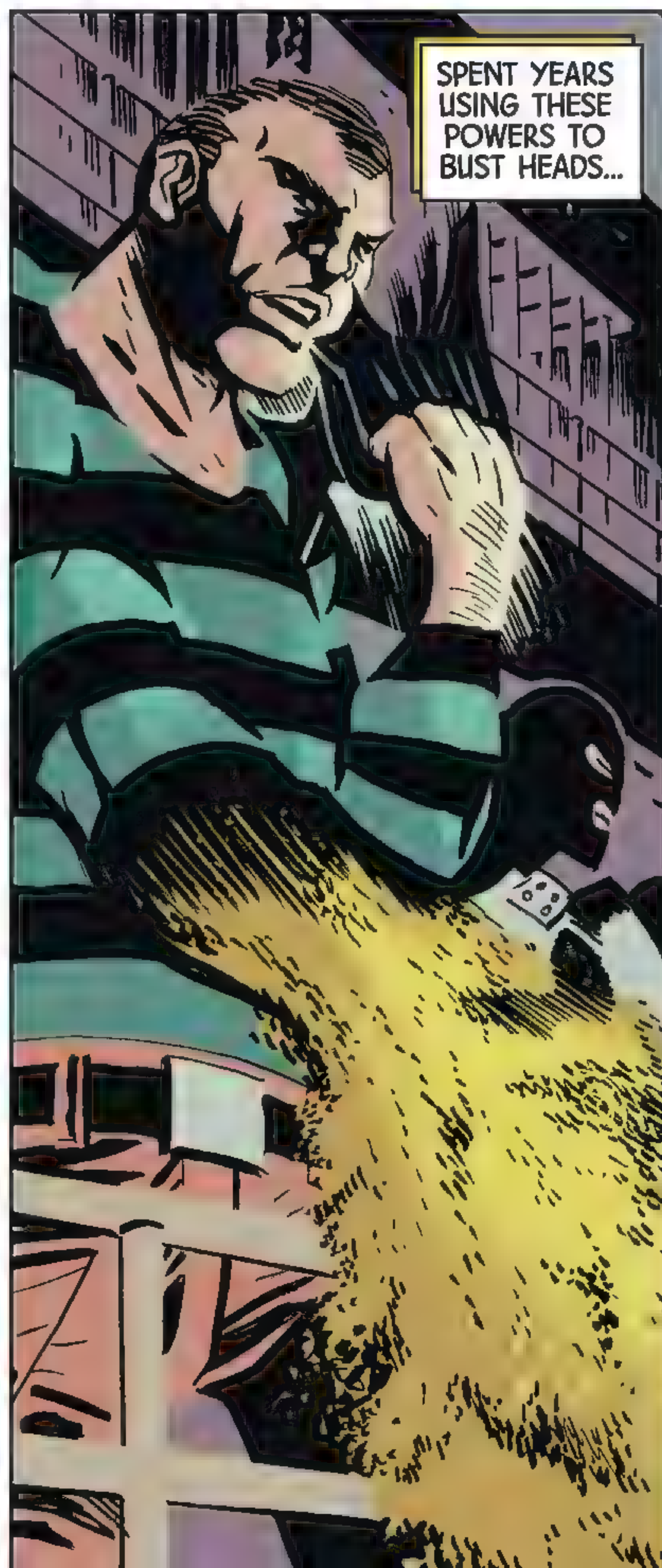
BUT IT GIVES ME  
A CHANCE TO GO  
UNNOTICED...



TAKE 'EM  
OUT!



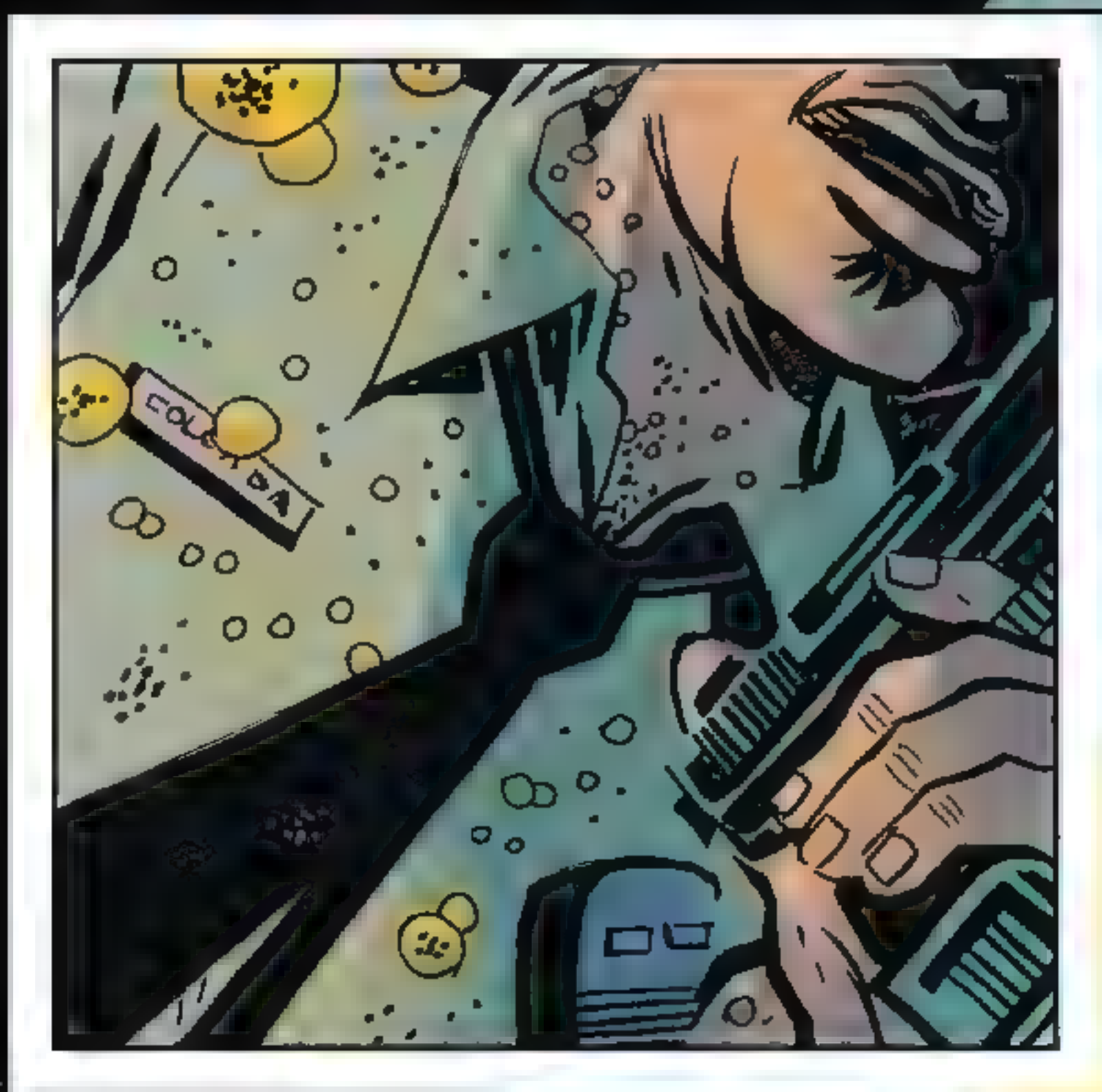
SPENT YEARS  
USING THESE  
POWERS TO  
BUST HEADS...



...BUT IT ONLY  
TAKES A LITTLE  
CREATIVE  
THINKIN' TO  
PUT 'EM TO  
BETTER USE.



OOF!





SORRY,  
BOYS...BUT  
LEAVE THIS  
ONE TO  
ME.

THAT'S THE  
BEST THEY CAN  
DO? WHATTA BUNCH  
OF PUSHOVERS! LET'S  
GO NAB DIXON AND  
GET OUTTA  
HERE!



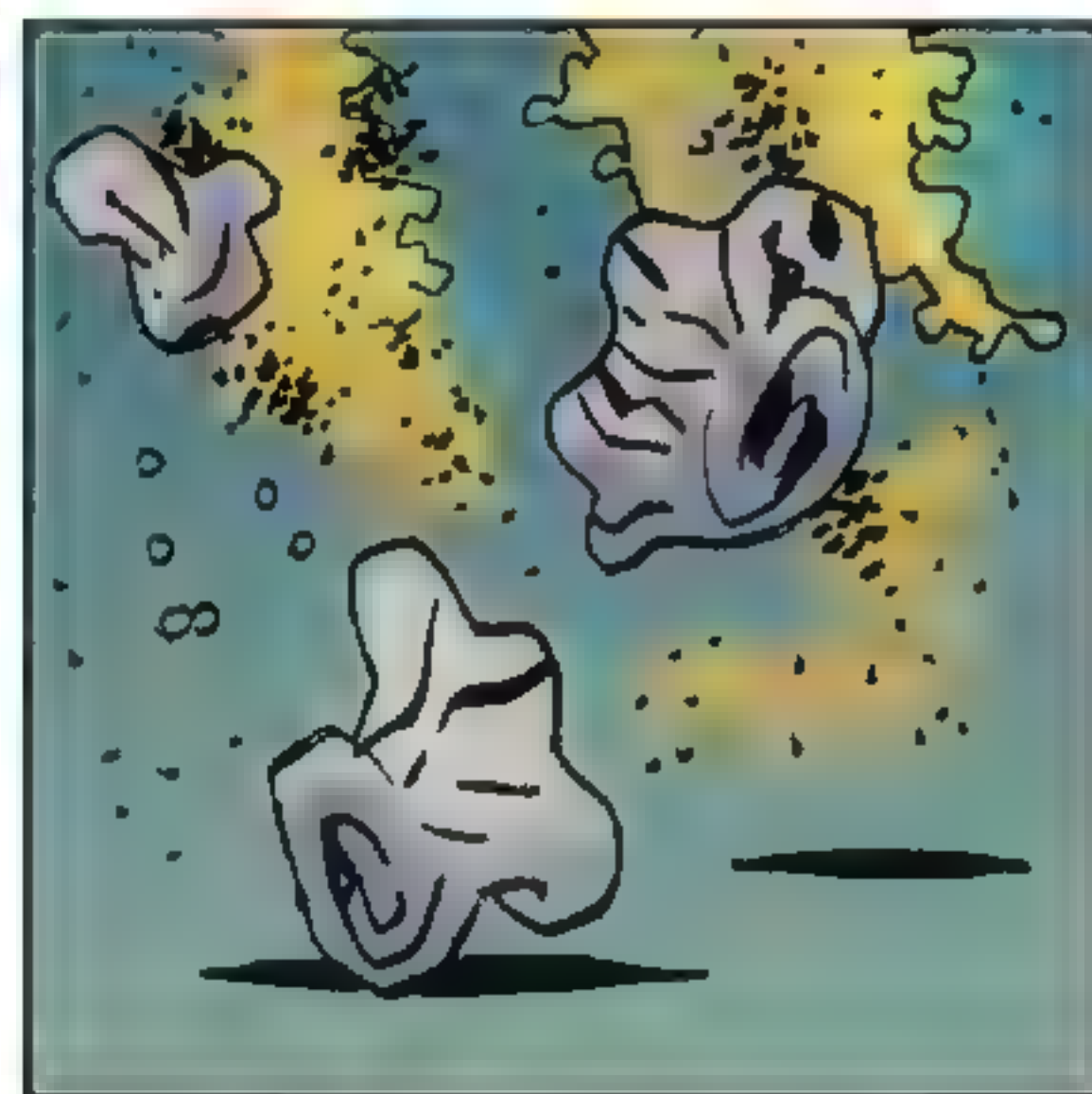
UHHHN...



WHA...



...SAND?



SEE, THING  
ABOUT DIXON IS  
HE'S NO DUMMY.  
HE WOULD NEVER  
LET HIMSELF GET  
LOCKED UP UNLESS  
HE HAD A DAMN  
GOOD REASON.

BOYS, I  
AM GLAD TO  
SEE YOU! NOW  
HURRY UP AND  
GIMME THE  
GOODS!

AND THAT  
REASON IS  
**RICO RAMONE**.  
HIS CELLMATE.





WITH PLEASURE,  
BOSS...USED THE LAST  
OF OUR PETTY CASH  
TO GET THIS FROM  
THE DEALER...

SHOULD  
BE ENOUGH TO  
BUST YA OUT NO  
PROBLEM!



OOHHH,  
COME TO  
PAPA!



NOW  
THAT'S WHAT  
I'M TALKING  
ABOUT!

Y'SEE, RICO...HE WAS NEVER  
CUT OUT FOR THE LIFE. KNEW  
STUFF ABOUT COMPUTERS, HOW  
TO READ BLUEPRINTS...BUT WAS  
NEVER TOO GOOD IN THE FIELD.

GOT PICKED UP AFTER  
A HEIST THAT I WAS IN  
CHARGE OF...IMPRISONED FOR  
LIFE. FEW MONTHS AGO,  
HE STARTED TALKING.

DIXON DIDN'T LIKE THAT...  
HE PULLED SOME STRINGS  
AND GOT PUT RIGHT IN HERE  
WITH HIM TO MAKE SURE  
RICO DIDN'T TALK TO  
NO ONE NO MORE...

...AND  
I'M HERE  
TO STOP  
HIM FROM  
FINISHING  
THE JOB.

THING IS...RICO?  
WASN'T JUST MY  
GUY...HE'S ALSO  
MY FRIEND.

ALL RIGHT,  
YA RAT...TIME  
TO GET WHAT'S  
COMING TO  
YOU...

HOLD IT,  
DIXON...

AN' LIKE I SAID...FLINT MARKO  
IS A MAN OF HIS WORD.

THE SANDMAN  
DON'T LET  
HIS FRIENDS  
TAKE A FALL.

HOW  
ABOUT  
YOU PICK  
ON SOMEONE  
YER OWN  
SIZE?

WHA...?!  
MARKO?!

OUTTA THE  
WAY, YA MORON!  
I'M NOT GONNA  
LET YOU RUIN  
THIS FOR ME!

DAMMIT,  
HIS SAND'S  
JAMMED UP  
OUR GEAR!

HOLD  
IT RIGHT  
THERE!

HE...  
HE SET  
US UP!

I GUESS  
I'M GONNA DO  
YOU FIRST, THEN  
YOUR CHATTY  
LITTLE FRIEND!

NO ONE  
DOUBLE-CROSSES  
BOSS DIXON!

NOW  
WHERE WAS  
I, YA YELLOW  
PIECE A'--



FLINT! YOU  
CAME FOR ME!  
AFTER ALL THIS  
TIME...

YOU WERE  
NEVER CUT OUT  
FOR THIS, RICO. I  
COULDN'T LET THEM  
DO YA, 'SPECIALLY  
AFTER YOU TOOK  
A DIVE FOR  
ME.

SMASH

NOW  
LET'S GET  
OUTTA  
HERE!

WHEN I SAW THOSE BAD  
GUYS GONE GOOD ON TV,  
PART OF ME THOUGHT THEY  
WERE CRAZY. BUT I GOTTA  
ADMIT, DOING THE RIGHT  
THING LIKE THIS...

...IT FEELS PRETTY  
DAMN GOOD.



RICO'S A GOOD EGG.  
THE OTHER GUYS?  
CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY  
TO SEE 'EM LOCKED UP.



RICO'S GOT A FAMILY  
TO GET BACK TO. A LIFE.  
I OWED HIM THAT...  
ANOTHER CHANCE.



I'LL  
NEVER  
BE ABLE TO  
REPAY YOU,  
FLINT. YOU  
SAVED  
ME.



FREED A GOOD MAN  
AND PUT SOME GRADE-A  
CREEPS IN JAIL. NOT  
TOO SHABBY.

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT THE  
WORLD HAS TO SAY ABOUT  
THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF  
*THE SANDMAN!*



...REPORTING  
LIVE FROM RYKER'S  
ISLAND WHERE THE  
VILLAINOUS SANDMAN  
HAS STRUCK  
AGAIN.

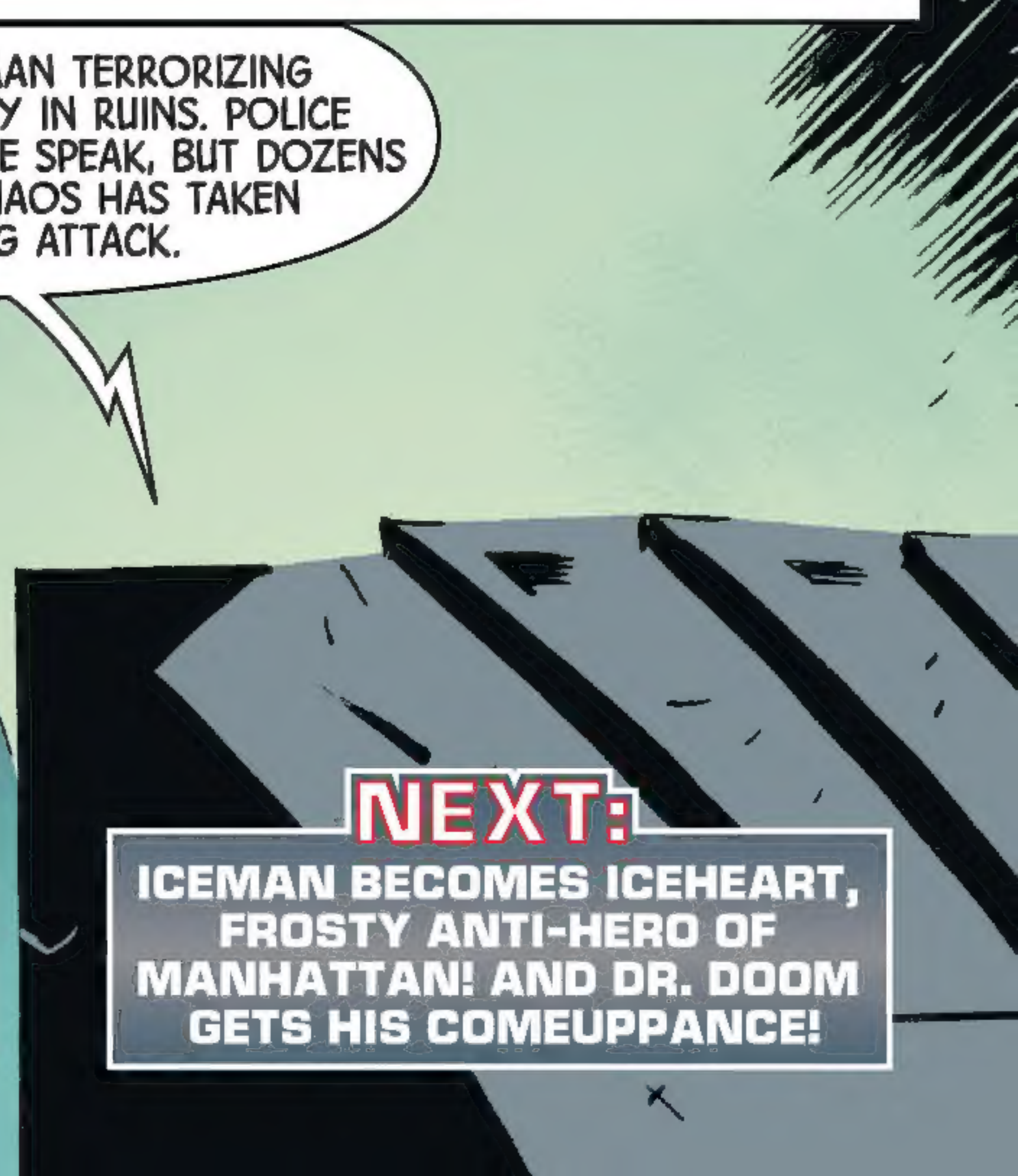


EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS SAW SANDMAN TERRORIZING  
THE GUARDS AND LEAVING THE FACILITY IN RUINS. POLICE  
ARE LOOKING INTO THE BREAKOUT AS WE SPEAK, BUT DOZENS  
OF INMATES HAVE ESCAPED AND CHAOS HAS TAKEN  
OVER AFTER THE DECIMATING ATTACK.

WOULD YOU  
GET A LOAD'A  
THAT...!

NO GOOD DEED  
GOES UNPUNISHED,  
ESPECIALLY FOR  
GUYS LIKE ME.

END OF THE DAY,  
IT'S YER OWN *LITTLE*  
*TRUTHS* THAT GET YA  
BY. THE REST? JUST  
*SAND THROUGH*  
*THE CRACKS.*



**NEXT:**

ICEMAN BECOMES ICEHEART,  
FROSTY ANTI-HERO OF  
MANHATTAN! AND DR. DOOM  
GETS HIS COMEUPPANCE!

